

WE CLAIM:

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1. An absorbent garment comprising:
a chassis defining a waist opening and first and second leg openings, the chassis including a liquid-permeable body side liner, a selectively liquid-permeable outer cover, and an absorbent assembly between the body side liner and the outer cover.

2. The absorbent garment of Claim 1, wherein the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 1 inch.

3. The absorbent garment of Claim 1, wherein the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 2 inches.

4. The absorbent garment of Claim 1, wherein the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 5 inches.

5. The absorbent garment of Claim 1, further comprising a crotch area in the chassis between the first and second leg openings, wherein the crotch area of the outer cover is more liquid-permeable than the rest of the outer cover.

6. The absorbent garment of Claim 5, further comprising a plurality of apertures in the crotch area of the outer cover.

7. The absorbent garment of Claim 5, wherein the absorbent assembly directs incoming aqueous fluids away from the crotch area.

8. Swimwear comprising the absorbent garment of Claim 1.

9. An absorbent garment comprising:
a chassis defining a waist opening and first and second leg openings, the chassis including a liquid-permeable body side liner, a partially liquid-permeable outer cover, and an absorbent assembly between the body side liner and the outer cover.

10. The absorbent garment of Claim 9, wherein the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 1 inch.

11. The absorbent garment of Claim 9, wherein the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 2 inches.

12. The absorbent garment of Claim 9, wherein the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 5 inches.

13. The absorbent garment of Claim 9, further comprising a crotch area in the chassis between the first and second leg openings, wherein the crotch area of the outer cover is more liquid-permeable than the rest of the outer cover.

14. The absorbent garment of Claim 13, further comprising a plurality of apertures in the crotch area of the outer cover.

15. The absorbent garment of Claim 13, wherein the absorbent assembly directs incoming aqueous fluids away from the crotch area.

16. Swimwear comprising the absorbent garment of Claim 9.

17. An absorbent swimwear garment comprising:

a chassis defining a waist opening and first and second leg openings, the chassis including a body side liner, an outer cover, and an absorbent assembly between the body side liner and the outer cover; and

a crotch area in the chassis between the first and second leg openings, the crotch area of the outer cover being liquid-permeable.

18. The absorbent garment of Claim 17, wherein the crotch area of the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 1 inch.

19. The absorbent garment of Claim 17, wherein the crotch area of the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 2 inches.

20. The absorbent garment of Claim 17, wherein the crotch area of the outer cover is liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 5 inches.

21. The absorbent garment of Claim 17, wherein 5% to 100% of surface area of the outer cover is liquid-permeable.

22. The absorbent garment of Claim 17, wherein 8% to 50% of surface area of the outer cover is liquid-permeable.

23. The absorbent garment of Claim 17, wherein 10% to 25% of surface area of the outer cover is liquid-permeable.

24. The absorbent garment of Claim 17, further comprising a plurality of apertures in the crotch area of the outer cover.

25. The absorbent garment of Claim 17, further comprising a pair of liquid-permeable containment flaps adjacent the first and second leg openings in the crotch area.

26. The absorbent garment of Claim 25, wherein the containment flaps are liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 0.5 inch.

27. The absorbent garment of Claim 25, wherein the containment flaps are liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 0.75 inch.

28. The absorbent garment of Claim 25, wherein the containment flaps are liquid-permeable only to liquids having a hydrostatic pressure greater than about 1.25 inches.

29. The absorbent garment of Claim 25, wherein 5% to 100% of surface area of the containment flaps is liquid-permeable.

30. The absorbent garment of Claim 25, wherein 10% to 50% of surface area of the containment flaps is liquid-permeable.

31. The absorbent garment of Claim 25, wherein 10% to 30% of surface area of the containment flaps is liquid-permeable.

32. The absorbent garment of Claim 25, wherein the containment flaps comprise a gradient of permeability, with a first longitudinal edge of each flap having greater permeability than a second longitudinal edge of each flap.

33. The absorbent garment of Claim 32, wherein the first longitudinal edge of each flap is attached to the chassis.

34. The absorbent garment of Claim 25, further comprising a plurality of apertures in the containment flaps.

35. The absorbent garment of Claim 25, wherein the absorbent assembly directs incoming aqueous fluids away from the containment flaps.